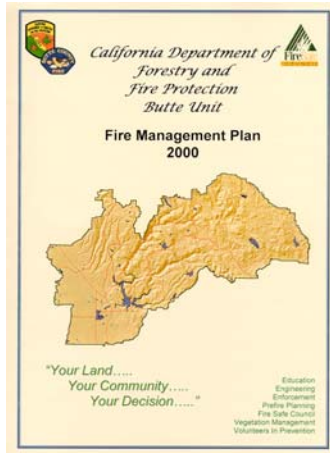


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Butte Unit Fire Management Plan documents the assessment of the fire situation within the unit; it includes stakeholder contributions and priorities, and identifies strategic areas for pre-fire planning and fuel treatment as defined by the people who live and work with the local fire problem. This plan has been adapted from the original Butte Unit Fire Management Plan 2000 and subsequent versions.

Computer based data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are utilized, which allows for a comprehensive analysis of fire hazards (fuels and severe fire weather), assets at risk, and level of service to be included in the Fire Management Plan. In short, the Butte Unit Fire Management Plan systematically assess the existing level of wildland fire protection service, identifies high-risk and high-value areas where potential exists for costly and damaging wildfires, ranks these areas in terms of priority needs, and prescribes what can be done to reduce future costs and losses. The fire plan assessment system has four components. They include:

- Level of Service (LOS)
- Assets at Risk (AAR)
- Hazardous Fuels (Fuel Rank)
- Historic Fire Weather (Severe Fire Weather)

The goal of this plan is to reduce the destruction and associated costs from wildfire by protecting assets at risk through focused Pre Fire management prescriptions, and in turn improved initial attack success. This plan utilizes five strategic objectives to construct the Fire Plan Framework as identified in the California Fire Plan, and incorporates them into the planning and implementation process. The five objectives and framework components of the Butte Fire Management Plan are as follows:

- Wildfire Protection Zones - To create wildfire protection zones that reduce the risks to citizens and firefighters.
- Initial Attack Success - Assess the initial attack fire suppression successes of wildland fires on lands of similar vegetation type. This is measured in terms of a percentage of fires that are successfully controlled before unacceptable costs and losses occur. The analyses can be used to determine the department and unit's level of service.
- Assets Protected - The plan utilizes a methodology for defining assets protected and their degree of risk from wildfire. The assets at risk addressed in the plan are life safety (citizen and firefighter), watersheds and water quality, timber, wildlife and wildlife habitat (including rare and endangered species), rural

communities, unique areas (scenic, cultural, and historic), recreation, range, property in the form of structures, and air quality. Stakeholders for each of the assets at risk are identified; their input helps to guide the pre fire decision making process of CDF and other fire service managers as well as that of the local Fire Safe councils.

- Fire Management Prescriptions - Fire management prescriptions focus on alternative means of protecting assets at risk. Projects include a combination of fuel modification, ignition management, fire-wise planning and education, and pre-development planning. Specific activities include but are not limited to land use planning and associated regulation, educational programs and public information, department infrastructure including fire stations and water systems, fuels management and forest health. Pre fire management prescriptions will also identify those who will benefit from such work and consequently those who should share in the project costs.
- Fiscal Framework - The State Board of Forestry and CDF are developing a fiscal framework for assessing and monitoring annual and long-term changes in California's wildland fire protection systems. This plan will incorporate Pre fire Workload Analyses (PWA), in an attempt to provide relevant data to guide in the development of the fiscal framework and public policy.

Applications of the Fire Plan Framework

- Identify areas of concentrated assets and high risk for state, federal and local officials as well as the public.
- To provide citizens with the necessary information which will enable them to identify public and private assets, design solutions, and carry out pre fire projects designed to protect those assets.
- Allow stakeholders, agency personnel, the private sector and the public, to come together in a common form through the Fire Safe Councils with the focus of reducing the threat and impact of wildfire. Through the cooperative efforts of the Fire Safe Councils and CDF identify and prioritize pre fire projects in order to allocate available resources in the most cost effective manner.
- Encourage an intergovernmental approach to reducing costs plus losses as the result of wildland fire.
- Enable policy makers and the public to focus realistically on what can and should be done to reduce future costs plus losses from wildland fire.
- Through the land use and safety element of the Butte and Plumas County general plans, incorporate elements of the California Fire Plan so that the county plan supports the state plan.
- Allow the Butte Unit to improve the efficiency of its fire protection system, by developing pointed solutions for identified deficiencies.

The intent of the Butte Unit Fire Management Plan is to document the findings of the fire plan assessment process; assist stakeholders with the pre-fire management decision-

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making, and communicate the fire problem and subsequent solutions to stakeholders and citizens. The 2000 Fire Management Plan looked at 10 years of data (1990 – 1999). Subsequent versions of the plan incorporate fire plan assessments built on previous year's data. This Fire Management Plan will also be used to coordinate pre fire activities with adjacent CDF units, National Forests and large private landowners. This plan provides the basis from which requests for funding can be presented to federal, state and local agencies, public and private organizations, and the general public.

The Butte Unit Fire Management Plan is also the focal point for which pre fire planning activities are identified, prioritized and implemented through the cooperative efforts responsible fire agencies and fire safe councils. Many of the local fire safe councils, in cooperation with federal, state and local agencies have begun the process of community fire wise and evacuation planning and hazardous fuel reduction. Moreover, through the cooperative efforts of responsible fire agencies, fire safe councils, and County land use planners work to identify and effect changes in fire safe regulations such as pre-development standards, fire safe and evacuation planning, fuel hazard reduction and defensible space standards has intensified.

The intent of this document is to provide a foundation from which communities can assume a cooperative part in the effort to improve fire and life safety. The content of this report is cooperative effort between the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Butte and Plumas fire safe councils.

Henri Brachais

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henri Brachais", written in a cursive style.

Unit Chief